

CLAIMS

1. A modular structure, suitable for the containment of water and adapted to be readily assembled and disassembled, for creating water gardens, said modular structure comprising:

5 **a base,**

 formed of a lightweight sturdy and durable moisture-resistant material,

 having a body with perimeter walls, a top side and an underside,

10 said base further characterized as having a generally centrally located depressed area on its top side that is capable of accommodating and/or directing the flow of a quantity of aqueous liquid;

a moisture-resistant membrane

15 formed over the exposed outer surface area of the base structure, and

 extending at least over the top side thereof and a portion of the upper edge of the perimeter walls;

a moisture- and flex-resistant substrate

20 extending over and on top of said moisture-resistant membrane and at least covering the exposed outside surfaces of the top and perimeter walls of the base, and

at least one natural-appearing stone

25 attached to and/or imbedded in said substrate such as to give a generally natural appearance to said modular structure.

2. The modular structure of Claim 1, wherein the moisture-resistant membrane and substrate are formed of a single unitary material.

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3. The modular structure of Claim 1, wherein the base of the modular structure includes a plumbing assembly having:

a pump;

10 a supply hose, connected to the pump, that extends to a port at the exterior surface of the structure; and

a return hose originating from within a depressed area on the surface of the structure and terminating at the pump to allow for a return of aqueous liquid to the pump.

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4. The modular structure of Claim 1, wherein the width and depth of the centrally located depressed area are sufficient to hold one or more human beings.

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5. The modular structure of Claim 1, wherein said membrane has a thickness of at least about 40-80 mils.

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6. The modular structure of Claim 1, wherein at least four natural stones are imbedded into the substrate.

7. A modular structure, suitable for the containment of water and adapted to be readily assembled and disassembled, for
5 creating water gardens, said modular structure comprising:

a base unit,

formed of a suitable lightweight material,

having a body with an exposed outer surface,
perimeter walls and an underside,

10 said base unit further characterized as having a
generally centrally located depressed area on its exposed
outer surface that is suitable for use as a tub capable of
accommodating a quantity of liquid;

a moisture-proof membrane

15 formed over the exposed outer surface area of the base
structure, and

extending over at least the tub and the upper edge of the
perimeter walls;

a moisture- and flex-resistant substrate

20 formed over the exposed outer surface of the base at
least covering the exposed outside surfaces of the perimeter
walls;

said substrate having one or more **stones** attached to
and or imbedded therein such as to give a generally natural
25 appearance to said modular structure; and

a plumbing assembly

including a pump and at least one hose adapted to supply flowing water to said modular structure.

5 8. A modular structure as in Claim 7, combined into a water garden including at least one modular structure according to claim 1.

10 9. A modular structure suitable for the containment of water and adapted to be readily assembled and disassembled, for creating water gardens, said modular structure comprising:

a base,

15 formed of lightweight sturdy material, suitable to support the weight of the structure and give it a transportable character,

 having a body with an exposed outer surface, perimeter walls and an underside,

20 said base further characterized as having at least one sloped area suitable for allowing water to run in a downward direction;

a moisture-proof membrane

 formed over the exposed outer surface area of the sloped area, and

a moisture- and flex-resistant substrate

25 formed over the exposed outer surface area of the sloped area at least covering the exposed outside surfaces of

the perimeter walls, and characterized as providing a generally natural appearance to said modular structure.

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10. The modular structure of Claim 8, wherein at least one natural-appearing stone is attached to and/or imbedded in said substrate such as to give a generally natural appearance to said modular structure.

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11. The modular structure of Claim 10, wherein a fiberglass mesh reinforcing material is secured to the base unit before applying the substrate.

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